

NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS

RANDY G. MASSEY
ACTING UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

Nine Executive Drive, Fairview Heights, Illinois 62208, Telephone (618) 628-3700

For Immediate Release

SEPTEMBER 7, 2006

MARION MAN ENTERS PLEA IN FEDERAL COURT

Randy G. Massey, Acting United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, today announced the plea of guilty to an indictment charging one count of theft of anhydrous ammonia and one count of attempted theft of anhydrous in Franklin County, IL. The plea took place in United States District Court at Benton, Illinois on September 7, 2006.

Kevin W. Page, age 26, of Marion, Illinois entered a plea of guilty to the two counts of an indictment returned against him by a United States Grand Jury in Benton, Illinois, on April 5th of this year. That indictment alleged his involvement in the theft and attempted theft of anhydrous ammonia from a farm located in Franklin County, Illinois on August 19, 2005. He faces a potential sentence of 20 years imprisonment, a \$250,000 fine, and 3 years of supervised release.

At the hearing on his change of plea, the defendant admitted to being involved in stealing a small quantity of anhydrous ammonia on the 19th of August, 2005 and then later the same night to going back and trying to steal an entire farm tank containing anhydrous ammonia. The second attempt was foiled when the defendant and a coconspirator got the farm tank stuck in the mud and were apprehended by law enforcement. The investigation determined that the defendant intended to provide the stolen anhydrous ammonia to others in Williamson and Franklin County to be used to manufacture methamphetamine.

The defendant has been detained pending his sentencing hearing which has been set for December 7, 2006 at 10:30a.m in United States District Court at Benton.

Investigation into the case was handled by the Illinois State Police, the Southern Illinois Drug Task Force, the COMIT Drug Task Force, and by the United States Drug Enforcement Administration.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Michael C. Carr.